(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken various steps to strengthen the flying clubs. These include upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India (ACI).

(e) For IGRUA, which is under the administrative control of this Ministry, the Government has approved two schemes for upgradation *viz.* development of civil and electrical infrastructure and acquisition of trainer aircrafts costing Rs. 21.82 crore and Rs. 43.10 crore respectively. The Government has also proposed to incur an expenditure of Rs. 108.07 crore for development of Birsi aerodrome for setting up of flying training institute at Gondia. An amount of Rs. 12.03 crore for purchase of trainer aircrafts to be allocated by ACI to various flying clubs has also been approved.

Private operators are already in the field of training of pilots. It has been decided to develop the flying training institute at Gondia as a Joint Venture Company under the aegis of Airports Authority of India with a private flying training organisation of international repute as Joint Venture Partner. It has also been decided to develop IGRUA as a world class flying training institute through management contract arrangement with flying training organisation of international repute.

Survey on Functioning of Banks in Villages

†*270. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards survey by Invest India Market Solutions Dataworks regarding functioning of banks in villages where only 38 per cent of labourers have bank accounts;

(b) whether out of 22.7 crore village labourers only 8.61 crore have accounts in banks;

(c) the reasons for banks being situated far off from villages and whether the main reason for this is indifference of Bank Officers; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government for increasing bank transactions in villages?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Invest India Market Solutions Dataworks have not submitted any report to the Government on functioning of banks in villages.

(b) to (d) Scheduled commercial banks as on March 2006 had a total of 48.51 crore accounts, of which 13.96 crore were rural accounts. The specific initiatives taken by the Government for increasing bank transactions in villages include; introduction of 'zero balance' or 'no frills accounts; pilot projects for utilizing smart cards/mobile technology to increase banks' outreach; biometric methods for uniquely identifying customers; pilot project to identify at least one district in each State/Union Territory for achieving 100 per cent financial inclusion; survey for assessing customer satisfaction in rural areas; permission given to banks to utilise the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

services of nongovernmental organisations/self-help groups, micro-finance institutions (other than Non-bank Financial Companies) and other civil society organisations as intermediaries in providing financial and banking services; policy initiatives to facilitate diversification of business operation of regional rural banks into new areas; agreements between banks and postal authorities for using post offices as business correspondents; several initiatives for improving delivery of customer services; and, constitution of State-specific Working Groups to explore possibilities of greater financial inclusion.

Shopping Tourism in India

*271. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch shopping tourism in the country to who foreign tourists in a Public Private Partnership mode;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bhubaneswar in Orissa is also one of the places where this project would be launched;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the details of other measures that are proposed to be worked out to boost tourism in Orissa to improve the economy of this region?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India is constantly developing new products and themes including Shopping for promotion of tourism in India. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including Orissa for organizing promotional events, fairs and festivals. These events also provide an appropriate platform for exhibition and sale of items of art and craft. In addition, the Ministry provides financial assistance for organizing Tourism-cum-Handicraft-cum-Cultural events on a regional basis with the aim of creating a larger platform for showcasing India's culture and heritage and facilitating sale of art and craft products. In the year 2007, the Ministry of Tourism has extended financial assistance for organizing a mega craft and cultural fair in Bhubaneswar.

During the Xth Five Year Plan the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 7235.39 lakh for 37 tourism projects to the Government of Orissa for development and promotion of tourism in the State including projects for events promoting culture and handicrafts.

During the current financial year the Ministry has sanctioned financial assistance for Rs. 2760.45 lakh for 11 tourism projects to the Government of Orissa for development and promotion of tourism in the State.

Smuggling of Antique Statues of Gods

*272. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that priceless treasures like antique statues of Gods and Goddesses, invaluable sculpture are being regularly smuggled abroad under the grab of replicas from villages of Rajasthan, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the number of such antiques smuggled so far, State-wise;